NOVACON
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ROYAL
ANGUS
BIRMIN
HAM
OOPS...
DAVE HADEN 1983
EVERYONE
GOES TO NOVACON!

NOVACON THIRTEEN

CHAIRMANS HOT WAFFLES.....

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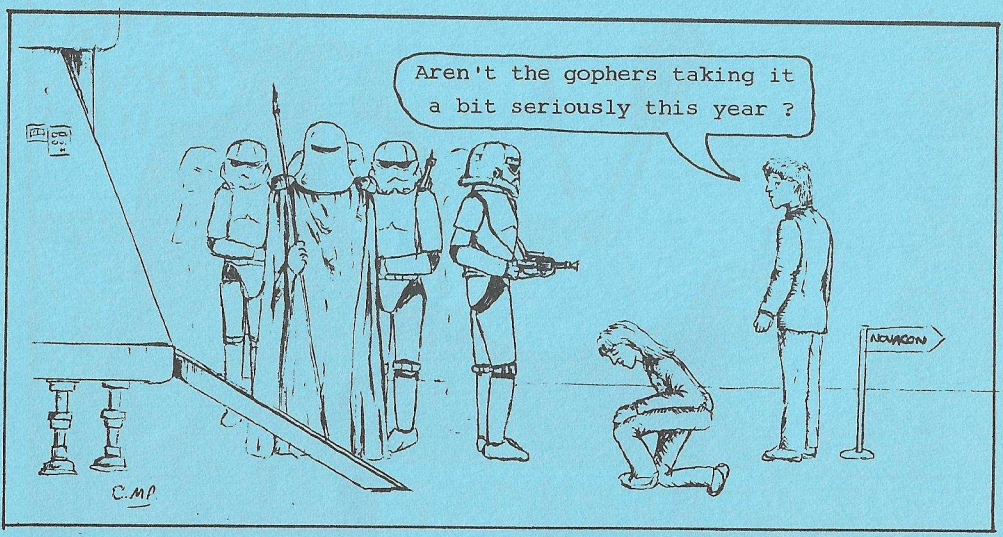
-- PHILL PROBERT.



This progress report was written except where stated by Phill Probert, with help from Eunice Pearson.
Artwork in this progress report is from, Dave Haden, Steve Green & Carol Pearson.

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Half the fun is.....getting there.

BY COACH - If travelling by National Coaches, you will arrive at Digbeth Coach Station (just off the bottom of map). To get to the Royal Angus or the Birmingham International the easiest and cheapest method is to walk up through Digbeth to Moor Street Station. Once there, catch a 101 single-deck bus outside the Station. This bus is the Centre Bus (Shoppers' Special - 10p any distance.) which will drop you off in New Street for the Birmingham International Hotel. (Novacon 13s over-flow hotel) The Centre Bus will also drop you off at Snow Hill Queensway for the Royal Angus Hotel.

BY TRAIN - If arriving at Moor Street Station, follow instructions above, Most of you will arrive at Birmingham's main station, New Street Station. After going through the ticket barriers, go up the escalators ahead of you. Turn left at the top of the escalators, pass the fountain and go through the New Street exit of the Birmingham Shopping Centre. At this point of passing out of the shopping centre there is a ramp down into New Street and the junction of Corporation Street. At the bottom of the ramp on the right there is a 101 Centre Bus stop. (Single deck bus - 10p any distance.) This bus will take you around the city to Snow Hill Queensway for the Royal Angus Hotel. 50 yards from this bus stop, on the other side of the road is the Birmingham International Hotel.

PLEASE NOTE. The Centre Bus - 101, runs every 2 or 3 minutes but stops running at 6.00pm. If arriving at Digbeth after 6.00pm. A number 16 or 17 bus from outside Digbeth Coach station will take you into the city. The fare is about 12p. If arriving at Moor Street after 6.00pm, your best bet is to walk through the city via New Street, Corporation Street, Old Square, Colmore Circus and Snow Hill Queensway. From New Street Station, Again, it is best if you walk up Corporation Street, left at Old Square and into Colmore Circus and down onto Snow Hill Queensway. However, saying all this, a taxi is an alternative

BY CAR - ROYAL ANGUS. Those of you who travel by car will almost certainly arrive via Spaghetti Junction off the motorway M6. (Junction 6) There are several turn-offs from the M6 to Birmingham. However 'Birmingham Central' is the one to take. This brings you onto the Aston expressway M38(A38) Follow this road until you see 'End of Motorway' sign. At this point move over to the right-hand side of the road which will take you over the flyover by the side of Birmingham's main Fire Station at Lancaster Circus. At the end of the flyover move to the left-hand lane and the Royal Angus is about 100 yards on the left, past the end of the flyover.

BY CAR - BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL HOTEL. This one isn't so easy. As above except at the 'End of Motorway' sign on the M38(A38). Move over to the left-hand lane and do not go over the flyover. Go past the Fire Station at Lancaster Circus and take the first left off the circus. This is a major road and must not be confused with Aston Street which is in the same area. The road you want from Lancaster Circus is James Watt Queensway. Follow this road around until you come to the Bull Ring. You turn right all the way around St Martins Circus.(The Bull ring Shopping Centre will be on your left.)

It now should look as if you are going back the way you came. You will go past New Street Station and on you left will be the Rotunda (Birmingham's famous circular tower block) Take the first left and follow the road around the Rotunda into New Street. Here you will be able to see the Birmingham International Hotel on the right-hand side of the road. However don't stop. Continue past the hotel and move into the left-hand lane. At the junction of New Street and Corporation Street, turn left down into Stephenson Street. Follow the road around to the right and go past 'Hudson's Bookshop' which is on the right. The road will turn left and just after this turn is a car-park. This one is the nearest to the Birmingham International Hotel. It is also a part of the New Street Station complex. To get back to the hotel you have to walk into the Birmingham Shopping centre,which is above you and make your way out from there. See over-page - from New Street Station.

BY CAR (OTHER ROUTES) M5 JUNCTION 3. Follow signs to Birmingham City Centre (approx 5 to 6 miles.) You then enter Birmingham City Centre from Broad Street. (Centre left on map.) Follow the road around Paradise Circus into Great Charles Street. Keep to the left-hand lane down the hill and under the railway bridge. Do not go under tunnel. At the roundabout which is straight after the bridge. Turn right, 4th exit, up Snow Hill Queensway. Follow the road up to the top of Snow Hill Queensway and follow the flow of traffic around to the left. Then turn first left again into Weamans Street, which leads to the back of the Royal Angus Hotel. and the entrance to the car park.

BY CAR (OTHER ROUTES) A34/A41/A45. Follow signs to Birmingham City centre which brings you into Birmingham via Digbeth and the Bull ring. (Bottom centre of map) Turn left with the main flow of traffic and keep to the right-hand lane around St Martins Circus. Go past the Rotunda. (the large circular tower block) Turn first left if you are for the Birmingham International Hotel. (See over page) Otherwise take the second exit into Moor Street. Go under the underpass at the first roundabout and take the left turn at the next roundabout which is Lancaster Circus. The Royal Angus is about 200 yards on the left .

PLEASE NOTE. We try and cover the most obvious routes into Birmingham If you are comming by any other route not mentioned here you are best advised to bring a good map with you. In fact that applies to every one really Things are made a bit more difficult by the position of the over flow and it's recent name change. However, those of you who regularly come to Novacon can switch on auto-pilot. After all we have been at the 'Angus for so many years.

SO YOU HAVE MADE IT .....So far. Once you have tackled the wonderous Birmingham Ring road, you now come to the difficult bit. Acctualy getting in the hotel. It is not as easy as it sounds. The Reception desk at the Royal Angus is on the ground floor. Check in and take the lift to your floor. Then you can go onto your room which will probably be on the next floor up as you pressed the wrong button. Once settled in to your room. You then make your way down to the second floor which is where the Novacon registration desk is. In fact it is where the rest of Novacon is apart from the lower Angus.

COFF Award.

With typical malice, Phill Probert has asked me to scribble down a few words about the COFF Award, that Frankenstein monster off-spring of too many over-lubricated nights at the Solihull group. Knowing only too well that I only achieved a pitiful second place last year. I should refuse outright. I should throw in a few helpful hints on where to put his typewriter. But no, the ever-lovely Eunice might take offence or even a garden chair.

COFF, or to give this diseased-brainchild of Kev Clarke's it's full title, is the CONCRETE OVERCOAT FAN FUND. It is now an annual Novacon event. An emotional experience ranking right alongside watching wet paint dry. Personally, I suspect the short hairy one created this event simply so he could automatically eliminate himself from the running, but that's just my paranoia surfacing again.

The twist to this award is, of course, that it's the one that no-one wants to really win. Not unless you're the Glasgow Bob Shaw. In any case, he won last year. The essence of COFF is that it goes to the fan who is judged by fandom, most deserving to be embedded in a concrete overcoat and thrown into the nearest canal. However, since the local water authority have frowned upon the possibility of new navigational hazards. There will be a symbolic presentation at the closing ceremony.

Votes cost a mere 10p and you can vote as often as you like. For the 1983 COFF award, Kev Clarke and co-administrator Chris Suslowicz are even running a 'COFF MOLE' service. The 'Mole', for a price will report the possition of who ever you ask, and the current leader.

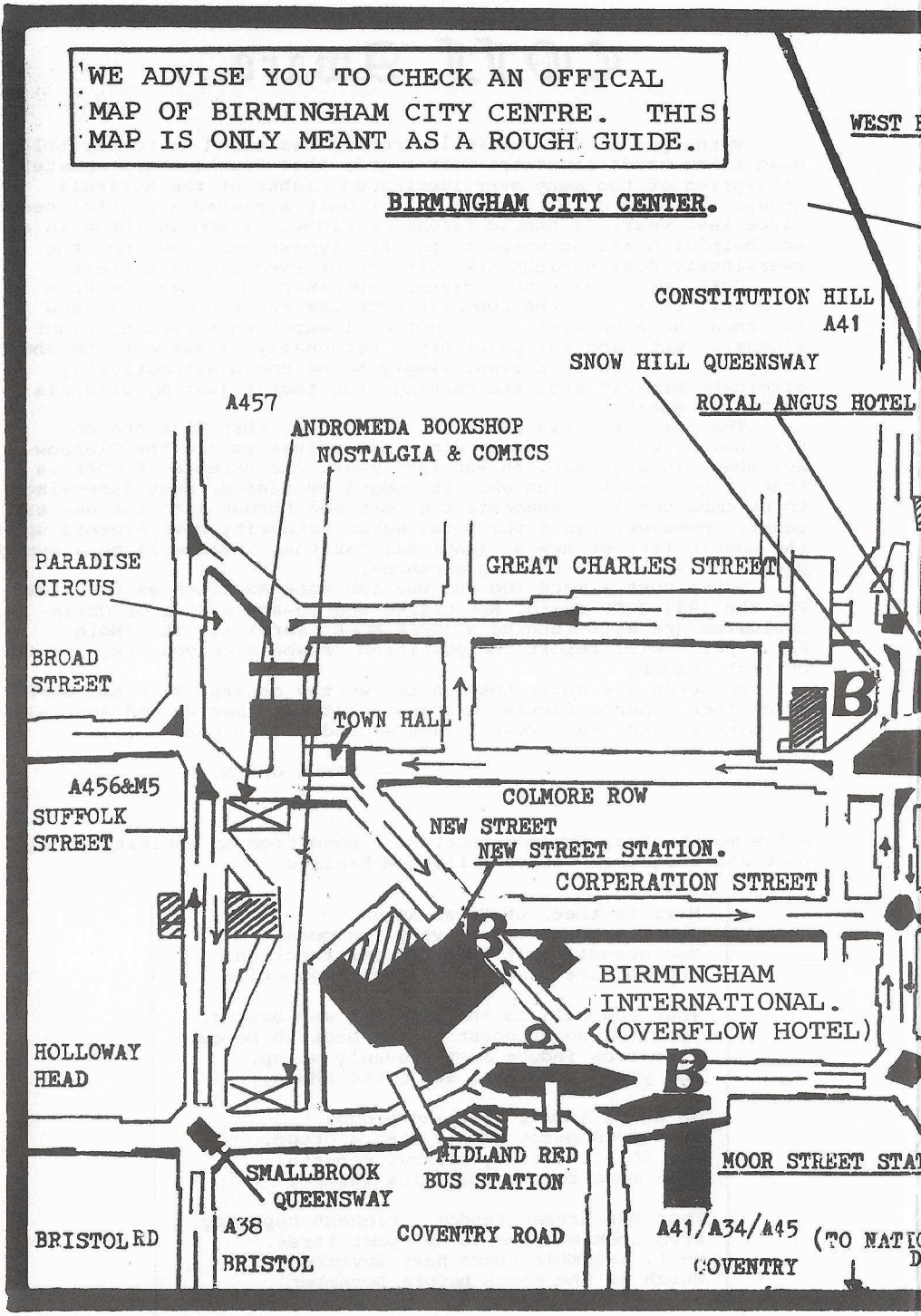
Proceeds are split between two worthy causes; TAFF amd GUFF. Which then finance fannish exchanges between America and Australia.

Like I said, last year I came second. This year .....

-- STEVE GREEN.

A few months ago, Novacon received a poem from an aspiring young poet and tragedian called William McFanigle.

> Hail to thee, oh Royal Angus,
> Where each November every fan goes,
> You grandly suit this fannish function,
> And you are handy to Spaghetti junction.
>
> Your con hall is the best for any orator,
> From the south coast to the Scotish border,
> Your beds induce most heavenly sleep,
> And your room rates are quite cheap.
>
> Oh Royal Angus, tall and proud,
> Of famous guest you've seen a crowd,
> But this I can say without rebuttal,
> None more bonnie than Lisa Tuttle.
>
> Your bar frames fandom's richest tapestry,
> From opening time to ha' past three,
> We'll assemble there next November,
> Which is the month before December.


WE ADVISE YOU TO CHECK AN OFFICAL MAP OF BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE. THIS MAP IS ONLY MEANT AS A ROUGH GUIDE.
BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTER.
WEST
CONSTITUTION HILL
A41
SNOW HILL QUEENSWAY
ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL
A457
ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP
NOSTALGIA & COMICS
PARADISE CIRCUS
GREAT CHARLES STREET
BROAD STREET
TOWN HALL
A456&M5
SUFFOLK STREET
COLMORE ROW
NEW STREET
NEW STREET STATION.
CORPERATION STREET
BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL.
(OVERFLOW HOTEL)
HOLLOWAY HEAD
SMALLBROOK QUEENSWAY
MIDLAND RED BUS STATION
MOOR STREET STA
BRISTOL RD
A38
BRISTOL
COVENTRY ROAD
A41/A34/A45
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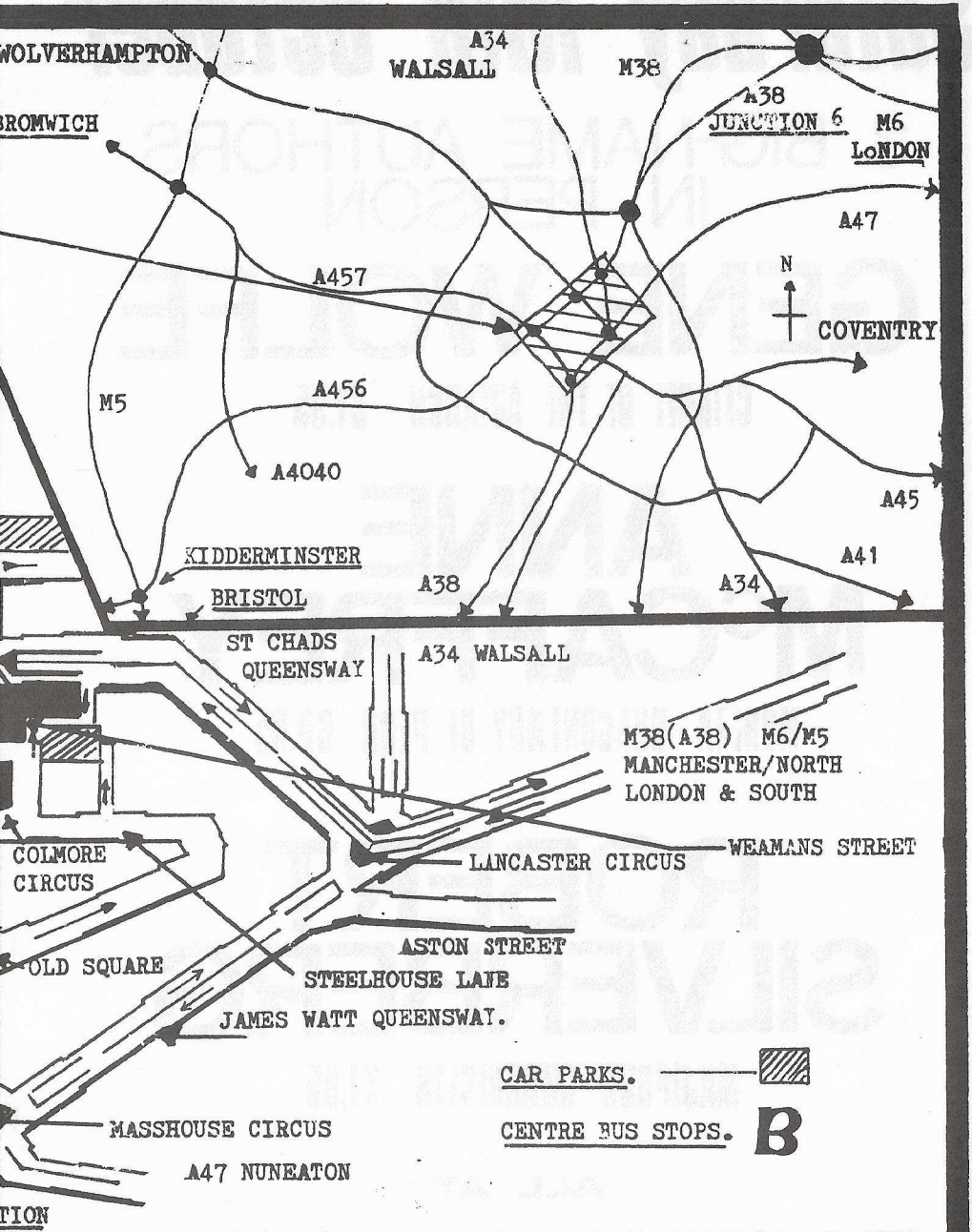
WOLVERHAMPTON
A34
WALSALL
M38
A38
JUNCTION 6
M6
LONDON
BROMWICH
A47
N
A457
COVENTRY
M5
A456
A4040
A45
KIDDERMINSTER
A41
BRISTOL
A38
A34
ST CHADS
QUEENSWAY
A34 WALSALL
M38(A38) M6/M5
MANCHESTER/NORTH
LONDON & SOUTH
WEAMANS STREET
COLMORE
CIRCUS
LANCASTER CIRCUS
OLD SQUARE
ASTON STREET
STEELHOUSE LANE
JAMES WATT QUEENSWAY.
CAR PARKS.
CENTRE BUS STOPS.
B
MASSHOUSE CIRCUS
A47 NUNEATON
TION
ONAL COACH STATION.)
DIGBETH.

Saturday 15th October

3 BIG-NAME AUTHORS IN PERSON

GENE WOLFE

CITADEL OF THE AUTARCH €1.95

ANNE McCAFFREY

MORETA - DRAGONLADY OF PERN €8.95

ROBERT SILVERBERG

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Programme.

This year we are aiming at a more varied, interesting and fuller programme of events. None of those lenghthy breaks for lunch, dinner, going to the bar, watering the cat, etc. There will be two programmes of events. One will concentrate on the more serious side of S.F. and the other will contain the more fannish type of events. Although in saying that, it won't mean that there wont be any cross over in fun items.

The altenative programme was briefly mentioned in P.R.2. However for this point I'll just say what we have planned for the main programme.

Ian Sorensen will be performing his rock opera "Neo." A treat in store for those who have not heard it before. And for those who have, I am assured that there will be some new songs included.

We are hoping to hold a proper debate on cruise missiles, where everyone will get their chance to air their views on the subject; which should prevent the subject being raised durring other non-related discussions and thus spoiling them for those who get fed up hearing about the nuclear arms race.

As well as the regulation disco. (Comming this time on the Friday night durring the Brum Group Party.) We are hoping to have a barn dance on the Saturday night. I know that there are many of you out there who secretly enjoy a bit of square dancing and we are relying on you to help guide us lesser mortals through our first steps.

There will of course, be talks - by Tom Shippey, Gerry Webb, Jack Cohen, Toby Roxburgh, Terrance Dicks and hopefully the Mighty Tharg in the form of one of his 'droids.

There will also be the regular features of Novacon, panel discussions, book and art auctions, films. Plus a few extras that we hope will make this Novacon even better this year.

-- JAN HUXLEY.

Alternatively.

As I see it, there are two justifications for running an alternative programme at Novacon 13. The first is to provide an informal, slightly more intimate venue for the kind of chat shows and panels which deserve a hearing but probably wouldn't fill the main hall.

The second is to offer an alternative to the more straightforward SF discussion by examining the nature of fandom and its myriad manifestations.

There is a third reason, of course, which in reality outweigh the other two : to have a bloody good time.

This altenative programme will be housed in the formed art-show room.(the lower Angus) Amongst it's highlights will be :-

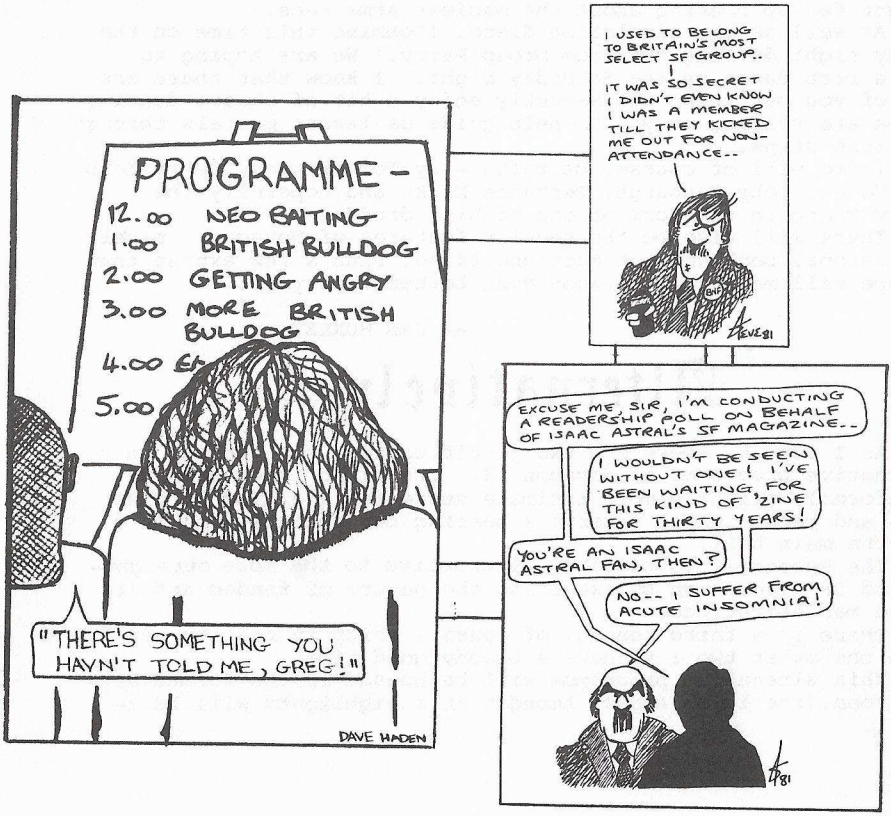
: Guest of Honour, LISA TUTTLE's other speech. Not talking as acclaimed SF Author but as a diehard SF fan.
: Hugo award-winning humourist BOB SHAW, who will be giving a talk with a difference.
: Beer Tasting. Bring along examples of your local brews. Or any exotic brews you have.
: A talk by GARRY KILWORTH on what is a fan ?
: Panels on American Fandom, Fan fiction and Comics.

Along with all these items there will be silly games organised in the best possible taste.

-- STEVE GREEN.

There is another and better alternative to these two programme's. Which is talking in the bar, meeting people and making friends. But then again, I don't need to tell you that. Do I ?

What I do have to tell you is this. You should wear your convention badge at all times whilst walking around the hotel. The bar staff have instructions to refuse service (outside normal drinking times) to anyone not wearing a badge.



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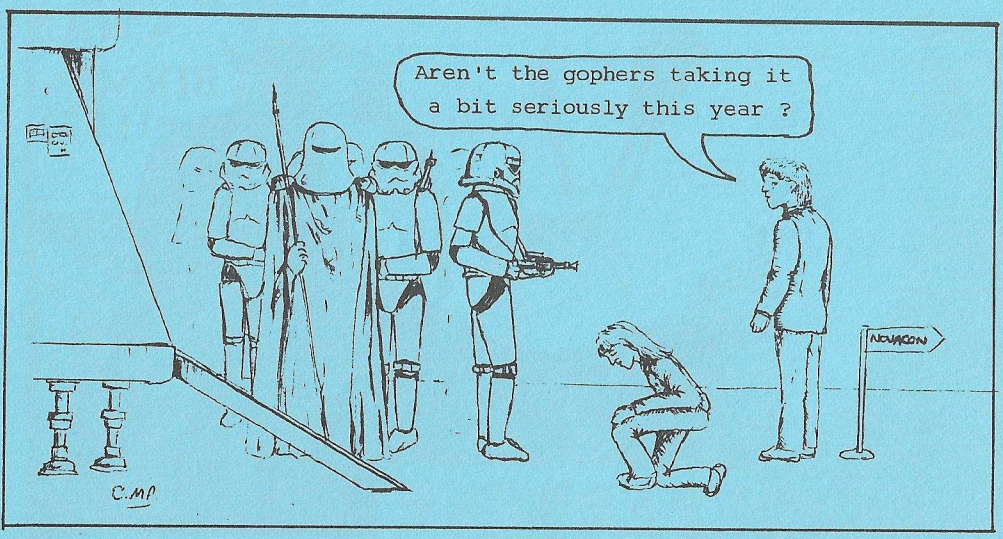

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329	Andie Oppenhimer	333	Les Flood	337	Sandra Kemp (s)
330	R I Gilbert	334	Pamela Buckmaster	338	Alex Stewart
331	Alec Lewis	335	Alan Summers	339	Dave Cox
332	Glenys Lewis	336	Geoff Kemp (s)		AS OF 27/9/83

PLEASE NOTE. This year, as last year, many fans just didn't realise that they were not registered with NOVACON. Can you check that all your friends are registered ? You would be doing them and us a great favour..After all they wouldn't want to miss out on all the fun,would they.

REGISTRATION is £7.00 attending membership and £3.50 supporting. Send your money to: CHRIS DONALDSON, 46 COLWYN ROAD, BEESTON, LEEDS 11.

Also enclosed is a NOVA AWARD voting form. This is for those fans who would like to vote but are unable to attend. If so, send you votes to PAUL VINCENT, 25 DOVEDALE AVENUE, PELSALL, WALSALL. Otherwise just hand them into the NOVACON 13 registration desk before it closes on the 5th of November.

WANTED. Willing and able people to be gophers at NOVACON 13. This is the best way to meets other fans if this is your first convention. Contact Jan Huxley at the address below. Also we want auction material.

COMMITTEE ADDRESSES :-

PHILL PROBERT & EUNICE PEARSON: (Chairman & Publications.)
32 Digby House, Colletts Grove, Kingshurst, Birmingham B37.

PAUL OLDROYD & CHRIS DONALDSON: (Treasurer & Registrations.)
46 Colwyn Road, Beeston, Leeds 11.

DAVE HADEN: (Artshow)
Shottery P.O.Stores, Shottery, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire.

JOHN WILKES: (Advertising.)
18A Ivel Gardens, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

JAN HUXLEY: (Operations and Gophers.)
128 Whitley Wood Road, Reading, Berkshire.

PAUL VINCENT: (Films & Nova Awards.)
25 Dovedale Avenus, Pelsall, Walsall, West Midlands.

STEVE GREEN: (Alternative Programme.)
11 Fox Green Crescent, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27.